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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,733	07/02/2003	Charles Frederic Paul	6473P002	7517

8791 7590 02/24/2005

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EXAMINER
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FRECH, KARL D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/614,733

Applicant(s)

PAUL ET AL

Examiner

Karl D. Frech

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

Art Unit: 2876

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5, 9-11,15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barkan 6,572,020.

Barkan discloses a portable bar code scanner 30 that includes a connector socket (port) 46 for the transfer (uploading) of collected optical code data to a data-handling terminal (col 5 lines 38+). Electronic (col 10 lines 2+) and physical (600 fig 14) coupons are scanned. These codes may be physically or electronically scanned (col 15 lines 22+). Memory for storing coupon data is disclosed (col 10 lines 1+). Storing the coupon data in digital form is inherent. The coupons contain at least manufacture identity and product identity information, expiration date, offer (value) code (col 15 lines 1+). An optical interface is disclosed including an optical code-reading module (211, col 8 lines 2+, fig 10). A flexible button pad (col 6 lines 40+) is disclosed. A docking station 32 is

also disclosed. Unique identification information related to the individual scanner is also disclosed (col 9 lines 43+). The scanner can be used at a kiosk (col 6 lines 25+).

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 6,7,8,12,13,14,19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barkan 6,572,020.

Barkan discloses that which is seen above. Barkan does not specifically disclose the "matching" of stored coupon data to check for a match as in claims 6 and 19. However, if not inherent, Official Notice is taken that coupon correlation in hand held scanners between the stored information on the scanner and that in a host system is old and well known. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to "match" the stored information of Barkan. This would ensure that there was

a correlation between what the customer has scanned into the scanner's memory and that which a host has been set to receive. This would help deter theft and pilfering.

Barkan does not specifically disclose redeeming a coupon by determining if a purchase satisfies a set of redemption rules or conditions as in claims 7,8. However, if not inherent, Official Notice is taken that accepting coupons only within a set of conditions is old and well known. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to ensure that the coupon redemption met a set of conditions. This would ensure that invalid coupons were not "granted" (examiner's words). For example, one condition would be only to accept a coupon that did not post date a set expiration date.

Barkan does not specifically disclose the display of claim 12, or the scroll key of claim 13 for scrolling through the display. However, push button input is disclosed as seen above. Official Notice is taken that displays on hand held bar code scanners and appropriate button input for scrolling through the display are old and well known. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a known display and scroll button into the apparatus of Barkan. This would allow a user to review and navigate the information held in the scanner.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ruppert et al 5,640,002 discloses a portable bar code scanner that scans product codes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karl D. Frech whose telephone number is (571) 272-2390. The examiner can normally be reached on maxi-flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Karl D Frech  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2876

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